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ACTION ARA-15

9/26/78

M201

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08 INR-10 LAB-04
NSAE-00 SIL-01 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02 L-03 NSC-05
PA-02 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-20 HA-05 /098 W
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R 262017Z SEP 78
FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7671

UNCLAS BUENOS AIRES 7641

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ELAB, PINS, AR
SUBJECT: GOA ARRESTS LABOR UNION LEADERS; VOIDS
INTERNAL ELECTIONS

ARGENTINA PROJECT (S200000044)
U.S. DEPT. OF STATE, A/RPS/IPS
Margaret P. Grafeld, Director
☒ Release ☐ Excise ☐ Deny
Exemption(s): _____
Declassify: ☐ In Part ☐ In Full
☐ Classify as _____ ☐ Extend as _____ ☐ Downgrade to _____
Date _____ Declassify on _____ Reason _____

1. THE SEPTEMBER 26 MORNING PRESS REPORTS THAT BETWEEN
22 AND 35 BUENOS AIRES LABOR LEADERS WERE DETAINED
SEPTEMBER 22 AND ARE STILL BEING HELD BY THE POLICE.
THE UNION MEN WERE REPORTEDLY ARRESTED AT A BARBEQUE
HELD AT THE BAKERS' UNION HEADQUARTERS, ALLEGEDLY FOR
HAVING VIOLATED THE LAW SUSPENDING UNION ACTIVITY. THE
POLICE HAVE NOT YET CONFIRMED THE ARRESTS WHICH THE
LABOR UNIONS' COMMITTEE OF 25 CONDEMNED AS "ALARMING
AND WITHOUT JUSTIFICATION."

2. ALSO REPORTED IN TODAY'S PRESS WERE THE LABOR MINISTRY'S
ALLEGED RESOLUTIONS DECLARING NULL AND VOID THE RECENT
INTERNAL ELECTIONS HELD BY THE ARGENTINE CHAMBER OF
COMMERCE AND THE CONFEDERATION OF RURAL ASSOCIATIONS OF
LA PAMPA AND BUENOS AIRES (CARBAP). A LABOR MINISTRY
SPOKESMAN EXPLAINED THAT THE ELECTIONS CONSTITUTED A VIOLATION
OF THE LAWS SUSPENDING BUSINESS AND LABOR UNION
ACTIVITY AND THAT THE FORMER OFFICIALS OF THE TWO
ORGANIZATIONS WOULD CONTINUE IN OFFICE. THE SPOKES-
MAN STRESSED THE MINISTRY DOES NOT INTEND TO INTERVENE
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OR TO INTERFERE WITH THE "NORMAL ACTIVITIES" OF THE
TWO GROUPS. CARBAP PRESIDENT CALVET TOLD THE PRESS

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HE HAS NOT BEEN INFORMED OF THE RESOLUTION DIRECTLY
BY THE LABOR MINISTRY VOIDING ITS RECENT ELECTIONS
FOR THE EXECUTIVE BOARD AND DECLARED THAT CARBAP IS
NEITHER A LABOR NOR BUSINESS GROUP NOR IS IT REGISTERED
IN THE LABOR MINISTRY AS SUCH.

3. COMMENT: IT INTERESTS US THAT GOA IS REINING
IN BOTH "LABOR" AND "ESTABLISHMENT", USING THE SAME
LAW TO DO BOTH.
CASTRO

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